

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 00582 200651Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
-----200655Z 015711 /15

O R 200630Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7944
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0582

EXDIS

FROM WOODCOCK, PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, US, VN
SUBJ: FAMILY REUNIONS

1. DURING CONTACTS WITH COMMISSION MEMBERS AND STAFF IN
HANOI, UNHCR REP CASEL
REPORTED SRV OFFICIALS HAVE
BEEN MORE FORTHCOMING IN RECENT WEEKS REGARDING DEPARTURE
OF VIETNAMESE RELATIVES OF AMCITS AND OTHERS IN U.S.
CASELLA SAID HE EXPECTS TO HAVE SUCCESS IN NEAR
FUTURE IN ARRANGING FOR CHILDREN OF AMCITS TO DEPART,
PARTICULARLY IN CASE OF RICHARD, THE NINE-YEAR-OLD AMCIT
SON OF DR. BA IN BALTIMORE, ABOUT WHOM UNHCR USG, AND
RED CROSS HAVE HAD NUMEROUS INQUIRIES. CASELLA SAID
UNHCR HOPES TO ASSEMBLE SMALL GROUP OF SUCH CHILDREN
TO FLY FROM SAIGON AS A GROUP.

2. SINCE ICRC REP WAS ABSENT FROM HANOI TO ARRANGE
DEPARTURE OF TAIWANESE AND OTHERS FROM SAIGON, COMMISSION
STAFF LEFT COPY OF RED CROSS LIST OF WIVES, FIANCES, AND
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CHILDREN OF AMCITS WITH UNHCR OFFICE, TO BE WORKED ON
WITH ICRC, VIETNAMESE RED CROSS, AND APPROPRIATE SRV
OFFICIALS. CASELLA SAID CONSULAR DEPT OF FOREIGN
MINISTRY IS THE KEY DECISION-MAKING OFFICE ON THIS
SUBJECT, TO WHICH UNHCR WAS ADDRESSING ITS INQUIRIES, AND
FROM WHOM IT HAD GAINED IMPRESSION OF MORE FORTHCOMING
ATTITUDE.

3. REGARDING US VISAS, COMMISSION STAFF NOTED THIS DID NOT ARISE FOR AMCIT CHILDREN, SOME OF WHOM HAVE US PASS-PORTS. FOR OTHERS ON RED CROSS LISTS, STAFF NOTED THESE HAD BEEN VERIFIED BY ARC AND RECEIVED NAME CHECKS AND PRELIMINARY APPROVALS BY DEPT. ALTHOUGH VISAS CANNOT BE ISSUED IN ADVANCE, WE REPEATED ASSURANCES OF MAXIMUM EFFORTS TO PROCESS THESE CASES EXPEDITIOUSLY ONCE THEY ARE PRESENTED TO US CONSULAR OFFICIALS IN BANGKOK OR ELSEWHERE.

4. COPY OF RED CROSS LISTS WILL BE POUCHED TO BANGKOK UPON COMMISSION'S RETURN TO WASHINGTON.
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Message Attributes

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